

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2799
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
STUDY ON CHIKUNGUNYA
Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any scientific study on the after effects of Chikungunya which is prevalent in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government will consider Mass Drug Administration for the eradication of Chikungunya; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Chikungunya is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito. Incubation period of the virus is from 4 to 7 days. The main symptoms of the disease are high fever with skin rashes. The infected person suffers from muscular and joints pain which continue for a considerable period even after the acute phase is over.

The first case of Chikungunya was recorded in India in 1963. Subsequently a few outbreaks have occurred and have been associated with disease. Thereafter only a few sporadic cases were recorded till 2005, followed by a massive outbreak in 2006. Due to its quiescence for nearly 32 years, not many studies have been taken up on different aspects of Chikungunya during this period. However, currently Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is funding an extramural project entitled "A rural population based study of Chikungunya infection with special reference to persistent rheumatic musculoskeletal disorders". The study is being carried out at Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, Pune. The main objective of the study is to evaluate the long term clinical, serological and immunological profile of Chikungunya infection with special reference to persistent 'rheumatic musculoskeletal disorders'. For this study a total sample size of 400 patients of Chikungunya infection will be enrolled from Pune district. The study has been initiated w.e.f. July 2007 and the final report will be available by the end of 2008.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. There is no drug that acts on Chikungunya virus infection. The cases are treated symptomatically.